

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141773

EXDIS MIL ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, RO

SUBJECT: USS WAINWRIGHT VISIT TO CONSTANTA: HANDLING
OF POSSIBLE ASYLUM REQUESTS

REF: A) BUCHAREST USDAO 151040Z, B) FAM 228

1. WE NOTE FROM REF A THAT USS WAINWRIGHT WILL BE ANCHORED IN TIGHTLY CONTROLLED CONSTANTA PORT AREA, AND THAT THERE IS SLIGHT POSSIBILITY THAT GENERAL PUBLIC WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT. HOWEVER, AS THE SHIP WILL BE VISITED BY A NUMBER OF PERSONS OF OFFICIAL OR SEMI-OFFICIAL NATURE, WE WISH TO REVIEW FOR YOU PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT ANY VISITOR SHOULD REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM. NAVY IS REPEATING CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE TO THE WAINWRIGHT. NAVY WILL ALSO INSTRUCT WAINWRIGHT TO EXERCISE NECESSARY PRECAUTION IN IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR CAREFULLY CONTROLLED VISITING ON BOARD SHIPS SO AS TO MINIMIZE ANY OPPORTUNITY
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FOR STOWAWAY ATTEMPT.

2. WE BELIEVE IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT, AND NAVY CONCURS, THAT ALL PERSONNEL LIKELY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ASYLUM

REQUESTS UNDERSTAND THAT USG POLICY, PER 2 FAM 228.2
AND SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5710.22, IS NOT REPEAT NOT TO GRANT

ASYLUM AT ITS UNITS WITHIN TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF A
FOREIGN STATE (IN CONTRAST TO THE KUDIRKA INCIDENT, WHEN
ASYLUM REQUEST WAS MADE ON US UNIT WITHIN US TERRITORIAL
JURISDICTION).

3. SHOULD ASYLUM ATTEMPT OCCUR, ASYLUM-SEEKER MUST BE
INFORMED FORTHWITH THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF CURRENT
SHIP VISIT ASYLUM CANNOT BE AFFORDED AND THAT IT IN HIS
OWN BEST INTERESTS TO LEAVE SHIP PROMPTLY. AT NO POINT
WHILE HE IS ON US VESSEL SHOULD ASYLUM-SEEKER BE GIVEN
ANY REASON TO ASSUME HE WILL BE GRANTED ASYLUM.

4. CARE SHOULD OF COURSE BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT

ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES DO NOT REMOVE ANY ASYLUM-SEEKER FROM
SHIP AGAINST HIS WILL.

5. CONTINUOUS EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE, BY EMBASSY ROMANIAN-
SPEAKING OFFICER IF CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW, TO EXPLAIN
WHY AFFORDING ASYLUM NOT POSSIBLE AND TO PERSUADE ASYLUM-
SEEKER TO LEAVE SHIP. EMB OFFICER SHOULD BE AT SHIP
DURING ALL PUBLIC VISITING HOURS AND ON CALL AT ALL OTHER
TIMES DURING SHIP VISIT.

6. IF ASYLUM-SEEKER ADAMANTLY REFUSES TO LEAVE SHIP,
DESPITE BEING TOLD THAT SHIP CAPTAIN AND US AMBASSADOR
REQUEST HE DO SO, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE INFORMED BY EXDIS
CABLE WITH FLASH PRECEDENCE.

7. PER 2 FAM 228.4, DEPARTMENT SHOULD IN ANY CASE BE
PROMPTLY NOTIFIED AT FIRST INDICATION OF ASYLUM SITUATION,
VIA EXDIS CABLE WITH IMMEDIATE OR FLASH PRECEDENCE.
WAINWRIGHT SHOULD ADDITIONALLY COMPLY WITH PARALLEL
REPORTS IN ACCORD WITH SECNAV 5710.22. HOWEVER, VOLUNTARY
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DEPARTURE OF ASYLUM-SEEKER FROM SHIP NEED NOT BE DELAYED
PENDING INITIAL NOTIFICATION TO DEPARTMENT.

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